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WNET, THIRTEEN, Fox Television Stations, Inc.,
Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation,
WPIX, Inc., Univision Television Group, Inc.,
The Univision Network Limited Partnership, and
Public Broadcasting Service

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA CLARA DIVISION

WNET, THIRTEEN, Fox Television Stations, Inc., Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, WPIX, Inc., Univision Television Group, Inc., The Univision Network Limited Partnership, and Public Broadcasting Service

Plaintiffs,

V.

Aereo, Inc., f/k/a Bamboom Labs, Inc.

Defendant.

Case No. 5:12-mc-80300-RMW

WNET PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO AEREO'S MOTION TO QUASH

[Declaration of Julie A. Shepard filed concurrently herewith]

Date: February 5, 2013

Time: 10:00 AM

Ctrm: 5, 4th Floor

Magistrate Judge: Paul S. Grewal

1 **I. Introduction**

2 Aereo's Motion to Quash the Subpoena served upon Google Inc. by Plaintiffs,¹
3 should be denied. Aereo lacks standing to move this Court to quash the Subpoena on the
4 basis of undue burden. To the extent Aereo has standing, it is only to move to quash or
5 modify the Subpoena based on the sensitive trade information that it claims will be
6 exposed by production responsive to the Subpoena. This information is already protected
7 by the Protective Order existing in the underlying action, and Aereo has made no showing
8 why this Protective Order is insufficient to protect its interests.

9 **II. Statement of Issues to be Decided**

10 Whether Plaintiffs' Subpoena served on Google should be quashed under Federal
11 Rule of Civil Procedure 45 where the two asserted grounds for quashing the Subpoena are
12 undue burden and confidentiality and (a) Aereo, the moving party, has no standing to
13 assert burden and submits no evidence of undue burden on Google in producing the
14 admittedly relevant information sought by the Subpoena and, (b) a two-tiered protective is
15 already in place to protect any of Aereo's confidential and propriety information produced
16 pursuant to the Subpoena.

17 **III. Background**

18 Plaintiffs in this litigation are the exclusive owners and broadcasters of copyrighted
19 television programming that is broadcast over the air in the New York metropolitan area.
20 Plaintiffs have never provided any license to Aereo to perform or reproduce their
21 copyrighted works. Nonetheless, on March 14, 2012, Aereo launched its subscription-
22 based, live television retransmission service, a business based entirely on the unauthorized
23 retransmission and reproduction of Plaintiffs' copyrighted content. For a monthly fee,
24 Aereo provides its subscribers with live or recorded transmissions of Plaintiffs' broadcasts

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¹ Plaintiffs consist of WNET, THIRTEEN, Fox Television Stations, Inc., Twentieth
27 Century Fox Film Corporation, WPIX, Inc., Univision Television Group, Inc., The
28 Univision Network Limited Partnership, and Public Broadcasting Service.

1 to any Internet-connected device. Because commercial services which retransmit over-
 2 the-air broadcasts must have a license, Aereo has attempted to distinguish what it does
 3 from television service providers such as cable and satellite companies, which have
 4 licenses to retransmit Plaintiffs' programming. Indeed, Aereo takes great pains to portray
 5 itself as "just a technology company" that "rents" equipment to subscribers. But this is all
 6 fiction. Aereo takes Plaintiffs' broadcast signals, manipulates them for retransmission
 7 over the Internet, and retransmits them to Aereo's subscribers for a fee. This is the same
 8 thing satellite companies do via satellite and cable companies do via cable. Aereo's goal
 9 is for people to "cut the cord" so to speak and cancel their cable subscriptions and switch
 10 to Aereo to watch television.

11 In March 2012, Plaintiffs brought suit in the Southern District of New York against
 12 Aereo for infringement of the Plaintiff television broadcasting companies' copyrights,
 13 including claims of infringement of Plaintiffs' public performance and reproduction
 14 rights. *WNET v. Aereo, Inc.*, No. 12-cv-1543 (S.D.N.Y. filed Mar. 1, 2012) (Nathan, J.).²
 15 Plaintiffs allege both direct and secondary liability for infringement. And, Aereo has
 16 asserted, among other things, fair use as one of its defenses.

17 In May, Plaintiffs moved for preliminary injunction on their public performance
 18 right claim only, after a couple month period of limited, expedited discovery. During this
 19 period, Plaintiffs and Aereo entered into a two-tiered Protective Order governing the
 20 treatment to be given to sensitive proprietary information that would be produced in the
 21 course of the litigation. See Ex. A to Chan Aff., Amended Stipulated Protective Order.
 22 As Aereo acknowledged, Aereo produced its source code and other highly sensitive
 23 technical documents subject to that Protective Order without objection. Aereo's Mot., p.
 24 3. And, the Protective Order remains in place.

25 The District Court eventually denied Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction,

26 ² A second group of Plaintiffs filed a related case against Aereo, *American Broadcasting*
 27 *Companies v. Aereo, Inc.*, No. 12-cv-1540-AJN (S.D.N.Y. filed Mar. 1, 2012). The cases
 28 have been consolidated.

1 and expedited appeal was taken to the Second Circuit. While the Second Circuit's
2 decision is outstanding, the litigation continues to progress at the District Court with fact
3 discovery currently set to close on February 22, 2013.

4 As the parties had not previously taken discovery on the reproduction claims at all,
5 much of the discovery served once fact discovery was re-opened in September has
6 focused on Plaintiffs' reproduction right claims. But, despite Aereo's intimation to the
7 contrary, the District Court did not limit discovery when it was re-opened. The clearest
8 sign of that is Aereo's 92 document requests to Plaintiffs.

9 **IV. Argument**

10 There is no basis under Rule 45 for this Court to quash the Subpoena. As an initial
11 matter, Aereo lacks standing to ask this Court to quash the Subpoena on the basis that the
12 Subpoena is allegedly unduly burdensome on Google. A court may to quash a subpoena
13 that subjects a person to undue burden, Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(c)(3)(A)(iv), but Aereo is not
14 subjected to any burden by the Subpoena, as the Subpoena is not directed to Aereo.
15 Further, there is minimal, if any, burden on Google to produce the requested documents
16 and information, which are admittedly relevant. And, while Aereo has standing to object
17 on the basis that its proprietary information is being produced, that objection is frivolous
18 here where there is a strong Protective Order in place and both Aereo and Plaintiffs have
19 produced much more competitively sensitive and proprietary information under the
20 Protective Order (e.g., source code, technical information, highly confidential agreements)
21 than the materials requested in the Subpoena.

22 **A. Aereo Lacks Standing to Move to Quash the Subpoena on the Basis of 23 Undue Burden to Google.**

24 Aereo lacks standing to move to quash this Subpoena on the grounds of undue
25 burden because it is not the subject of the Subpoena. "A party's objection that the
26 subpoena issued to the non-party seeks irrelevant information or imposes an undue burden
27 on the non-party are not grounds on which a party has standing to move to quash a
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1 subpoena issued to a non-party, especially where the non-party, itself, has not objected.”
 2 *G.K. Las Vegas Ltd. P’ship v. Simon Prop. Grp., Inc.*, No. 2:04-cv-01199-DAE-GWF,
 3 2007 WL 119148, at *3 (D. Nev. Jan. 9, 2007); *see, e.g., Kremen v. Cohen*, No. C11–
 4 05411 LHK (HRL), 2012 WL 2277857, at *3 (N.D. Cal. June 18, 2012) (finding moving
 5 party lacked standing to move to withdraw subpoenas based on alleged violation of rights
 6 of third parties where the subpoenaed parties themselves had not moved to quash, modify,
 7 or withdraw the subpoenas). As the burden of proof for showing that a subpoena is
 8 burdensome rests with the party to whom the subpoena is directed, *Goodman v. United
 9 States*, 369 F.2d 166, 169 (9th Cir. 1966), a party who is not the subject of the subpoena
 10 cannot possibly complain of the burden allegedly imposed, *Third Degree Films, Inc. v.
 11 Does 1-118*, Civ. A. No. 11-cv-03006, 2011 WL 6837774, at *3 (D. Md. Dec. 28, 2011)
 12 (denying motion to quash based on undue burden “because the subpoena … does not
 13 require [movant] to produce any information or otherwise respond”). Moreover, “[t]he
 14 third parties themselves are in the best position to negotiate with the requesting party and,
 15 if necessary, raise their own objections pursuant to … Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(c).” *Streck, Inc.
 16 v. Research & Diagnostic Sys., Inc.*, No. 8:06CV458, 2009 WL 1562851, at *3 (D. Neb.
 17 June 1, 2009).

18 This is so even if the movant has standing under Rule 45 to bring a motion to quash
 19 a subpoena on the basis of an asserted privacy right or personal interest. *See Pub. Serv.
 20 Co. of Okla. v. A Plus, Inc.*, No. Civ-10-651-D, 2011 WL 691204, at *5 (W.D. Okla. Feb.
 21 16, 2011) (defendants lacked standing to challenge subpoenas directed to third-parties on
 22 the basis that the subpoenas are unduly burdensome, even where party had standing to
 23 challenge the subpoena on privacy or privilege grounds); *Keybank Nat’l Ass’n v. Perkins
 24 Rowe Assocs., L.L.C.*, Civ. A. No. 09-497-JJB-SR, 2011 WL 90108, at *2 (M.D. La. Jan.
 25 11, 2011) (defendants had standing to challenge third-party subpoenas seeking the
 26 defendants’ private bank records, but lacked standing to challenge other third-party
 27 subpoenas on grounds of relevance or undue burden to the subpoenaed non-party). A
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1 party who does not have standing to quash a subpoena based on undue burden on the non-
 2 party may, nonetheless, have standing to seek a protective order based on the party's
 3 claimed personal interest. *Wells Fargo & Co. v. ABD Ins.*, No. C 12-03856 PJH (DMR),
 4 2012 WL 6115612, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2012). Because there is already a Protective
 5 Order in operation in the underlying litigation, there is simply no further remedy Aero-
 6 e might need to protect its interests with respect to a third-party subpoena.

7 **B. Even if Aero Had Standing, the Subpoena is Not Unduly Burdensome;
 8 It Seeks Relevant Documents that are Not Duplicative.**

9 Even if this Court were to find that Aero does have standing to challenge the
 10 Subpoena as unduly burdensome, this argument is without merit and Aero's motion
 11 should be denied. In considering the issue of whether undue burden is imposed by a
 12 subpoena, courts balance the burden imposed, as well as the relevance and the parties'
 13 need for the information. *Gonzales v. Google, Inc.*, 234 F.R.D. 674, 680 (N.D. Cal.
 14 2006).

15 Here, Aero has provided absolutely no evidence of any burden that Google would
 16 be subject to, were it to comply with the Subpoena, but has merely proffered an affidavit
 17 from counsel, who does *not* represent Google, detailing certain facts relating to Aero's
 18 production of documents, *not* Google's burden. Indeed, Google has not actually declined
 19 to produce these materials, but only set forth pro forma objections as a placeholder until
 20 Aero responded to the Subpoena. In fact, Google has relayed to Plaintiffs' counsel its
 21 willingness to produce documents in response to the Subpoena if Aero did not object.
 22 See Shepard Decl. ¶ 3. Tellingly, Google has not submitted a declaration to support
 23 Aero's motion.

24 Aero tries to sidestep its inability to show burden by trying to create the
 25 impression that Plaintiffs will get the same documents from Aero by claiming the
 26 Subpoena seeks "duplicative" information. It does not. First, notably, Aero's
 27 declaration does not directly say that it has produced these same documents. It has not. A
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1 search for “Adword” and “Google” through Aereo documents did not reveal Aereo’s
2 AdWords purchases. Shepard Decl. ¶ 4. Second, Aereo is being disingenuous when it
3 implies that the database information that Plaintiffs have requested from Aereo regarding
4 how Aereo’s subscribers use Aereo’s service is the same information that Google tracks
5 with Google Analytics. Aereo’s Mot., p. 3. It is not. Aereo’s database tracks such things
6 as which programs Aereo subscribers watch or record, and when they watch them. In
7 contrast, Google’s reports track which non-Aereo websites deliver traffic to the Aereo
8 website, and what types of searches users run to get to the Aereo website. The Google
9 reports will also provide aggregated data about access to Aereo web pages by Aereo users
10 from outside the New York metropolitan viewing area, which is relevant to the market
11 harm suffered by Plaintiffs. *See WPIX, Inc. v. ivi, Inc.*, 765 F. Supp. 2d 594, 618, 620
12 (S.D.N.Y. 2012) (finding irreparable harm to be inflicted on broadcaster plaintiffs by the
13 ivi service “because viewers will be able to watch stations outside of their geographic
14 area,” and “[b]y diverting customers who would otherwise watch their local stations, [ivi
15 was] weakening plaintiffs’ negotiating position with advertisers”); *WPIX, Inc. v. ivi, Inc.*,
16 691 F.3d 275, 285 (2d Cir. 2012) (affirming same). This data may exist in Aereo’s raw
17 web server logs that Aereo has obtained from Google, but even Aereo is unlikely to look
18 there for it. Indeed, this is the very reason that Aereo uses Google Analytics; Google
19 Analytics collects data regarding Aereo site usage, at Aereo’s direction, and provides a
20 reporting interface for the data that is immensely more useful. Data obtained from Google
21 Analytics is by far the most convenient source for information such as traffic sources to
22 the Aereo site. Moreover, there is no guarantee that the resulting product from Google
23 will be captured by Aereo’s files. Even if Aereo looked at the Google Analytics reports
24 that were provided to them, it is not necessarily the case that they would have saved or
25 printed that documentation in any consistent or systematic way.

26 To the extent that there is any overlap between the documents Plaintiffs have
27 requested from Aereo and those requested from Google, Plaintiffs are entitled to seek
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1 discovery from Google to verify any similar information provided by Aereo. *See, e.g.*,
2 *Knoll, Inc. v. Moderno, Inc.*, No. C 12-80193-MISC SI, 2012 WL 4466543, at *2 (N.D.
3 Cal. Sept. 26, 2012) (finding plaintiffs entitled to documents requested from Google
4 despite defendant's claim that the documents requested had already been produced to
5 plaintiff where defendant's affidavit supporting its position did not lay a foundation for
6 the claim that the requested documents had been fully and completely produced to
7 plaintiff). While Aereo's discovery requests relating to their marketing strategies and ad
8 campaigns was due on October 29, 2012, Aereo has still not completed production of this
9 material to Plaintiffs. With discovery set to close on February 22, Plaintiffs have little
10 reason to be confident that they will ever receive the necessary information. Also,
11 Plaintiffs have come across documents from other third parties who have been
12 subpoenaed in connection with this litigation, which Aereo should have had but did not
13 produce, even though they were responsive to Plaintiffs' document requests. *See* Shepard
14 Decl. ¶ 5. The Subpoena merely seeks the requested information in a most complete and
15 reliable format.

16 For all of the above reasons, there is no burden to be balanced against the clear
17 relevance of the requested information and documents. Indeed, while Aereo makes a pro
18 forma relevance argument in its burden section, Aereo cannot escape that it has conceded
19 the relevancy of marketing and consumer behavior information sought by the Subpoena.
20 Aereo represented to this Court that Aereo has agreed to produce some of the documents
21 in Aereo's possession on these topic. Aereo's Mot., p. 6. Specifically, Aereo has
22 promised that it will produce documents relating to its marketing strategies. It cannot
23 now claim that this related information about the Google AdWords purchased to
24 implement its marketing strategies or Google's tracking of the effectiveness of this
25 marketing is somehow irrelevant.

26 Even without Aereo's concession, the relevance of the information sought by the
27 Subpoena to Plaintiffs' claims and Aereo's defenses is manifest. The requested
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1 information relates primarily to how Aereo is marketing itself and bears directly on the
2 issue of the impacted markets and market harm, which is a critical factor in Aereo's
3 asserted fair use defense. The fourth fair use factor considers "whether unrestricted and
4 widespread conduct of the sort engaged in by [Aereo] would result in a substantially
5 adverse impact on the potential market" for Plaintiffs' works. *Campbell v. Acuff-Rose*
6 *Music, Inc.*, 510 U.S. 569, 590 (1994) (quotation marks omitted). Here, the AdWords
7 purchases will likely confirm that Aereo is marketing itself as an alternative to both cable
8 and satellite services as well as other Internet services, and not just an "equipment"
9 provider. They will also likely confirm that Aereo is encouraging cord cutting, a direct
10 indication of market harm. See, e.g., Tom Cheredar, "Aereo's assault on old-school 'pay
11 TV' continues with 22 new cities & \$38M round," VentureBeat, Jan. 8, 2013, available at
12 <http://venturebeat.com/2013/01/08/aereo-expanding-22-cities/>.

13 Further, the requested advertising reports (the Google Analytic reports) will reveal
14 the performance and history of Aereo's marketing campaigns. Consumer behavior and
15 response are critical considerations when a fair use defense is asserted. These documents
16 will also show how Aereo has marketed its service and are different from those
17 documents Aereo itself will have in its possession. Google's reports on traffic sources
18 will likewise help Plaintiffs understand which websites deliver traffic to the Aereo
19 website, and what types of searches users run to get there. And, as discussed above, the
20 Google reports will provide aggregated data about access to Aereo web pages by Aereo
21 users from outside the New York metropolitan viewing area. All of this information
22 reflects the way Aereo presents its service to the public and how consumers respond. It is
23 important to note that Plaintiffs are not looking for raw data that would be difficult for
24 Google to extract, but are rather asking for the reports that are generated through the
25 normal Google Analytics interface, and should be easy to produce. This explains why
26 there is no declaration from Google attesting to any undue burden. To the extent this
27 Court nonetheless has outstanding questions as to the relevancy of the documents and
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1 information sought through the Subpoena, it should err on the side of permitting the
 2 discovery, particularly here where Aereo has admitted the relevance of marketing
 3 information and no evidence of burden on Google has been presented. *Compaq Computer*
 4 *Corp. v. Packard Bell Elecs., Inc.*, 163 F.R.D. 329, 335 (N.D. Cal. 1995) (“A district court
 5 whose only connection with a case is supervision of discovery ancillary to an action in
 6 another district should be especially hesitant to pass judgment on what constitutes relevant
 7 evidence thereunder. Where relevance is in doubt . . . the court should be permissive.”)
 8 (quoting *Truswal Sys. Corp. v. Hydro-Air Eng’g, Inc.*, 813 F.2d 1207, 1211-12 (Fed. Cir.
 9 1987) (internal quotation marks omitted; ellipsis in original)). Given the clear relevancy
 10 to Plaintiffs’ claims and Aereo’s complete lack of evidence as to the burden that will be
 11 placed on Google if it complies with the Subpoena, Aereo’s motion should be denied.

12 **C. Any Sensitive Trade Information Belonging to Aereo is Sufficiently
 13 Covered by the Protective Order in Operation in the Underlying
 14 Litigation.**

15 In deciding whether to quash a subpoena based on the need to protect sensitive
 16 information, “the Court also considers whether a protective order will address the asserted
 17 privacy concerns.” *Knoll*, 2012 WL 4466543, at *2 (citing *Laxalt v. McClatchy*, 809 F.2d
 18 885, 889 (D.C. Cir. 1987)). “Generally, ‘the selective disclosure of protectable trade
 19 secrets is not per se unreasonable and oppressive, when appropriate protective measures
 20 are imposed.’” *Gonzales*, 234 F.R.D. at 686-87 (quoting *Heat & Control, Inc. v. Hester*
 21 *Indus., Inc.*, 785 F.2d 1017, 1025 (Fed. Cir. 1986)).

22 In short, Aereo’s argument regarding its commercial information is frivolous.
 23 There is a strong Protective Order already in operation in the underlying litigation, which
 24 was provided to Google as an attachment to Plaintiffs’ Subpoena. *See* Ex. A to Chan Aff.,
 25 Amended Stipulated Protective Order. Parties and third parties like Google may designate
 26 documents as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential.” *Id.*, ¶¶ 2, 3, 13. Documents
 27 marked “Highly Confidential” cannot be shown to any business person of the parties and

1 access is limited to three in-house counsel. *Id.*, ¶¶ 3, 14. The Protective Order also
 2 includes a pre-disclosure requirement for experts and consultants, such that no
 3 confidential documents may be shown to them before the opposing party has an
 4 opportunity to object. *Id.*, ¶ 16.

5 Under the Protective Order, Aereo has produced all of its source code, extensive
 6 technical documentation, and service usage data. Aereo has even produced a physical
 7 copy of its antenna board. This technical discovery was produced in relation to Plaintiffs'
 8 public performance claim without incident. Plaintiffs should not be hindered in pursuit of
 9 their reproduction right claim based on a baseless allegation that the Protective Order—
 10 sufficient for prior purposes—is now somehow insufficient to protect Aereo's commercial
 11 information. Notably, Aereo has not even endeavored to explain why the Protective
 12 Order is suddenly insufficient to protect its interests. Under these circumstances, Aereo's
 13 motion to quash the Subpoena should be denied. Indeed, this Court recently denied a
 14 similar motion to quash a subpoena served on Google where the defendant moving to
 15 quash failed to demonstrate that the protective order in the underlying litigation would not
 16 sufficiently address the defendant's asserted privacy interests. *Knoll*, 2012 WL 4466543,
 17 at *2. The same should be done here.

18 **V. Conclusion**

19 For the reasons set forth above, Aereo's Motion to Quash the Subpoena should be
 20 denied.

22 Dated: January 9, 2013

JENNER & BLOCK LLP

24 By: _____ /s/ Julie Shepard
 25 JULIE A. SHEPARD

26 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 **United States District Court for the Northern District of California**

3 **Case No. 5:12-mc-80300-RMW**

4 I am a citizen of the United States and resident of the State of California. I am
5 employed in Los Angeles County, State of California, in the office of a member of the bar
6 of this Court, at whose direction the service was made. I am over the age of eighteen
7 years and not a party to the within action.

8 On January 9, 2013, I served the following documents in the manner described
9 below:

- 10 **1. WNET PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO AEREO'S MOTION TO**
11 **QUASH**
12 **2. DECLARATION OF JULIE A. SHEPARD IN SUPPORT OF WNET**
13 **PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO AEREO'S MOTION TO QUASH**

14

15 BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE: By electronically filing with the Clerk of the Court
16 using CM/ECF service which will provide notice to all counsel of record registered to
receive CM/ECF notification in captioned case, and constitutes service under Civil L. R.
17 5-1(h)(1).

18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America
19 that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on January 9, 2013, at 633 West 5th
20 Street, Suite 3600, Los Angeles, CA 90071:

21

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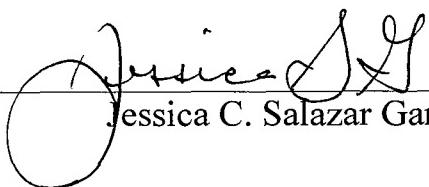
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Jessica C. Salazar Garcia